

INTRODUCTION

- The Tennessee Health Status Report, 1998 is the second in a series of Tennessee Health Status Reports. These reports are benchmark, objective appraisals of the health status of Tennesseans.
- Three focal points are current health-related characteristics of the population, emerging health issues, and guidelines for improvement.
- Baseline health status information is provided at state, regional, and county levels by age, sex, race, and risk, supplemented by access to tables, reports and case level data for customized analysis and mapping on the Health Information Tennessee (HIT) Web site (*server.to/hit*).
- Population subgroups at excess risk of health problems and disability are identified and profiled.
- Selected comparisons are made with indicators from CDC's Healthy People 2000 Objectives, and progress toward their achievement is monitored.
- Data are presented for health manpower, hospitals, nursing homes and other health facilities, and for services utilization. Health professionals are classified by major professional category. Licensed, regulated health facilities - hospitals and nursing homes - are located and described at the county level.
- Goals of Report '98 are to:
 - provide baseline measures for health status and problem identification in Tennessee;
 - present trends over time in key health indicators;
 - further develop needs assessment and planning infrastructure;
 - maximize communication via integrated data-sharing technologies;
 - target potential year-by-year goals; and
 - identify possible outcome measures to monitor goal attainment.
- The Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) is a department of State government headed by a cabinet level appointee reporting directly to the Governor.
- TDH divides the State into 14 statistical regions - 6 metropolitan counties and 8 nonmetropolitan clusters of counties.
- Health departments in each of 95 counties have a county health officer, a local county director, and a board of health. Each county and region has established a health council composed of community residents to support the Community Diagnosis Initiative begun in 1995.